



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,535	07/11/2003	Tavis D. Schriefer	175-0002US	7506

29855 7590 02/22/2007
WONG, CABELLO, LUTSCH, RUTHERFORD & BRUCCULERI,
L.L.P.
20333 SH 249
SUITE 600
HOUSTON, TX 77070

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/619,535	Applicant(s) SCHRIEFER, TAVIS D.	
	Examiner Edwin A. León	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6,44-51 and 76-95 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6,44,45,48,50,51,76-79,82-86 and 89-93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 46,47,49,80,81,87,88,94 and 95 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Amendment filed November 21, 2006, in which Claim 6 has been amended, Claims 52-75 have been cancelled and new Claims 76-95 have been added, has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 6, 44-45, 48, 50-51, 76-79 and 89-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang (U.S. Patent No. 5,632,553). With regard to Claim 6, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) a connector comprising: a first connector head (30) having an axis; a second connector head (first 56); a connection mechanism (32, 18, both 58) coupling the first connector head and the second connector head, wherein the connection mechanism is adapted to permit limited motion of the second connector head in first and second planes relative to the first connector head, the first plane being substantially coincident with the axis the second plane being substantially orthogonal to

Art Unit: 2833

the axis; and a third connector head (second 56) coupled to the connection mechanism, the connection mechanism adapted to permit limited motion of the third connector head in the first and second planes relative to the first connector head, wherein the second and third connector heads are adapted to move independent of each other in one of the first and second planes, and wherein the second and third connector heads are adapted to move together in the other of the first and second planes.

With regard to Claim 44, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the connection mechanism being further adapted to retain the second connector head in a specified position in the first plane and further adapted to retain the second connector head in another specified position in the second plane.

With regard to Claim 45, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the connection mechanism further adapted to retain the third connector head in a specified position in the first plane and further adapted to retain the third connector head in another specified position in the second plane.

With regard to Claim 48, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) at least one of the connector heads comprising a cable (38).

With regard to Claim 50, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the first connector head comprising different connector head styles from at least one of the second and third connector heads.

With regard to Claim 51, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the connection mechanism is further adapted to comprise means (18, 32, both 58) for implementing a hub function between the first connector head and the second and third connector heads.

With regard to Claim 76, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) a connector, comprising: an intermediate portion (18, 32, both 58) defining first and second axes of rotation, the second axis of rotation being substantially orthogonal to the first axis of rotation; a first connector head (30) coupled to the intermediate portion and being rotatable in a first plane about the first axis of rotation; a second connector head (first 56) in electrical communication with the first connector head, the second connector head coupled to the intermediate portion and being rotatable in a second plane about the second axis of rotation; and a third connector head (second 56) in electrical communication with the first connector head, the third connector head coupled to the intermediate portion and being rotatable in the second plane about the second axis of rotation, wherein the first and second axes of rotation permit the second and third connector heads to be selectively positioned in the first and second planes relative to the first connector head, and wherein the second and third connector heads are rotatable in the second plane independent of each other.

With regard to Claim 77, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the intermediate portion comprises means (18, 32, both 58) for implementing a hub function between the first connector head and the second and third connector heads.

With regard to Claim 78, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the intermediate portion at the first axis of rotation comprises a first fixedly adjustable positioning mechanism (28) adapted to retain the intermediate portion and its second axis of rotation in a selectable one of a plurality of positions in the first plane relative to the first connector head.

With regard to Claim 79, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the intermediate portion at the second axis of rotation comprises a second fixedly adjustable positioning mechanism (58) adapted to retain the second connector head in a selectable one of a plurality of positions in the second plane.

With regard to Claim 89, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) a connector comprising: a first connector head (30) defining a first axis of rotation; an intermediate portion (18, 32, both 58) coupled to the first connector head and being rotatable in a first plane about the first axis of rotation, the intermediate portion defining a second axis of rotation substantially orthogonal to the first axis of rotation and defining a third axis of rotation substantially orthogonal to both the first and second axes of rotation, wherein the second and third axes of rotation are rotatable together in the first plane about the first axis of rotation, wherein the third axis of rotation is rotatable in a second plane about the second axis; and a second connector head (first 56) in electrical communication with the first connector head, the second connector head coupled to the intermediate portion and being rotatable in a third plane about the third axis of rotation, wherein the first, second, and third axes of rotations permit the second connector head to be selectively positioned relative to the first connector head in the first, second, and third planes.

With regard to Claim 90, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) a fixedly adjustable positioning mechanism (18, 32, both 58) at one or more of the first, second, and third axes of rotation adapted to retain the second connector head in a selectable one of a plurality of positions relative to the first connector head.

With regard to Claim 91, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) a third connector head (second 56) in electrical communication with the first connector head, the third connector head coupled to the intermediate portion and being rotatable in the third plane about the third axis of rotation.

With regard to Claim 92, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the second and third connector heads are rotatable together in the first and second planes and are rotatable independent of each other in the third plane.

With regard to Claim 93, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the intermediate portion comprises means (18, 32, both 58) for implementing a hub function between the first connector head and the second and third connector heads.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 82-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang (U.S. Patent No. 5,632,553) in view of Shen (U.S. Patent No. 5,772,315). With regard to Claims 82-83 and 86, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) a connector comprising: an intermediate portion (18, 32, both 58) having a first end and a second end, the first end defining a first axis of rotation, the second end defining a second axis of rotation being

substantially orthogonal to the first axis of rotation; a first connector head (30) being rotatable in a first plane about the first axis of rotation; and a second connector head (first 56) in electrical communication with the first connector head, the second connector head being rotatable in a second plane about the second axis of rotation, wherein the first and second axes of rotation permit the second connector head to be selectively positioned in the first and second planes relative to the first connector head, a third connector head (second 56) in electrical communication with the first connector head, the third connector head being rotatable in the second plane about the second axis of rotation.

Huang discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the use of hinged connections and a fixedly adjustable positioning mechanism adapted to retain the second connector head in a selectable one of a plurality of positions in the second plane.

Shen teaches (in Fig. 5) a similar connector having hinge connections (screwed connections between 40, 71 and 70) and a fixedly adjustable positioning mechanism (comprising screws 50 and middle screws that connect 70) and adapted to retain a second connector head (second 70) in a selectable one of a plurality of positions in a second plane.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector of Huang by including hinge connections and a fixedly adjustable positioning mechanism as taught in Shen in order

to allow the parts to be interchanged so that various models of lamps can be used (Shen, Column 1, Lines 43-48).

With regard to Claim 84, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the second and third connector heads being rotatable together in the first plane and are rotatable independent of each other in the second plane.

With regard to Claim 85, Huang discloses (in Fig. 1) the intermediate portion comprises means for implementing a hub function between the first connector head and the second and third connector heads.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 46-47, 49, 80-81, 87-88 and 94-95 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, at least one of the connector heads comprising a device slot selected from the group consisting of Universal Serial Bus, FireWire, BlueTooth, video, RS232 and memory device slots, at least one of the connector heads comprises an electronic device selected from the group consisting of Universal Serial Bus, FireWire, BlueTooth, video, RS232 and memory devices, the first connector head is fixedly coupled to an electronic device selected from the group consisting of personal digital assistant,

telephone, camera and personal computer electronic devices and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base and intermediate claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6, 44-51 and 76-95 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

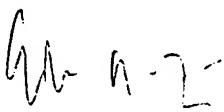
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2833

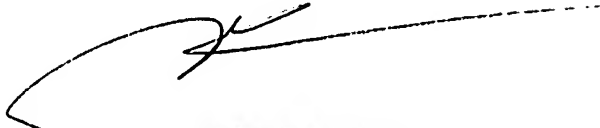
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
February 5, 2007


TRUCT. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER